

# **Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd**

Minutes of board meeting of 18 January 2007, Substitution Pty Ltd, 1/484 William Street, North Melbourne.

Present: Dianne Batterham, Niel Black, Graeme Charles, David Dinning, Tony O'Shea (Chairman) and David Griffiths (Secretary)

Guests for part of the meeting: Gordon and Pam McLean (Westgate Health Co-op Ltd)

## **1. Minutes**

That the minutes of the meeting of 16 November 2006 be signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

It was agreed at the last board meeting to gradually work through the issues raised in Gordon's paper. Gordon's paper was attached to the minutes of the meeting of 16 November 2006.

David Griffiths said that he had identified three sets of suggestions made in Gordon's paper that are relevant to other items on the agenda – Co-operative Education, australia.coop and co-operation between co-operatives – and proposed these be discussed at each agenda item.

This was agreed.

## **2. Elections**

That Tony O'Shea be appointed Chairman.

That Graeme Charles be appointed Deputy Chairman/Treasurer.

That David Griffiths be appointed Secretary.

## **3. Co-operative Education**

Graeme Charles reported on the status of the co-operative education initiatives. It was noted:

- 1) Letters with certificates were sent to all participants in the one day workshop. This included a summary report of the workshop.
- 2) Bonlac Chairman has been billed \$200 for one day workshop fee but has not yet paid. All other participants had paid.
- 3) Capricorn Society and Chris Cooper have confirmed two one day workshops on 18 - 19 July 2007 for 40 Liaison Officers.
- 4) Trent Bartlett is discussing with Co-operatives WA the possibility of a one day workshop. Murray Goulburn has indicated an interest in a workshop for field staff in the future.

- 5) There have been discussions with Barossa Community store and Co-operative College regarding a retail co-operative workshop and that there were approximately 20 reasonably sized retail co-operatives throughout Australia.
- 6) The New Zealand Co-operative Association has also initiated discussions with the Co-operative College following a report in the UK Co-operative News on the Co-operative Identity Workshops in Australia and there was a possibility of Chris Cooper going to New Zealand in November 2007.
- 7) When we eventually meet with NCUA there will be a discussion on applicability of Co-operative College programs. Chris Cooper is currently in Italy provided workshops for co-operative banks or credit unions.
- 8) Gardiner Foundation Funds were received - \$20,000 of \$25,000. It is important that we note and meet the reporting and accountability requirements. CFV has been invited in a letter dated 9 January 2007 to attend a Gardiner Foundation Reception at Queens Hall, Parliament House, on 19 February 2007. Certificates are to be presented to project leaders.
- 9) Discussions had begun with the Co-operative College on the possible establishment of a formal agency relationship covering Australia and New Zealand.
- 10) Graeme had attended the Monash Agribusiness workshop and discussed co-operative education with co-operative participants and reported that there was resistance to two day workshops with a total cost of \$13,500 but that it was uncertain whether it was a cost issue or the priority given to co-operative education and the cost of this.

It was noted that reports due to the Gardiner Foundation should be provided as and when required by Graeme Charles.

#### **4. Government**

There was a brief discussion on educating the State Government on co-operatives and arranging a meeting with the new Minister for Consumer Affairs Daniel Andrews.

It was agreed that a briefing note would be prepared and circulated to directors on:

CFV access to annual returns  
 Co-operatives Regulations 1997  
 Health co-operatives  
 Small co-operatives and audits

David Griffiths will prepare the briefing note with Dianne Batterham contributing the section on health co-operatives.

#### **5. australia.coop**

David Griffiths reported that a new record was created in December 2006 for australia.coop with 22,207 visitors

He also reported that , because of the perceived success of australia.coop the ICA has now proposed that he become the webmaster for:

<http://www.ica.coop>

This would involve three monthly contracts for an annual payment of approximately A\$38,0000 and David proposed that for as long as the contract continued CFV would retain 20% - approximately \$7,600.

He noted that \$7,600 was almost as much as the 2005-06 income from CFV's big three members – MG (\$4250), Genetics Australia (\$2500) and GHI (\$1750). The next biggest annual subscription was \$750. The \$7,600 also exceeds in total the margins generated from the three Co-operative Identity Workshops.

That we accept David Griffith's offer of a 20% payment on the salary received from his job as webmaster for <http://www.ica.coop>

The new requirement for board members to access the board member area of australia.coop was noted.

David also reported that creating regular profiles of CFV members as proposed by Graeme Charles could be initiated and that he would report back on Gordon's proposal to promote the diversity of services that co-operatives in Victoria and Australia offer.

## **6. Housing Co-operatives**

Tony O'Shea reported on a meeting that was to take place that afternoon with Robert Macbeth, Manager, Social Housing Sector, Department of Human Services.

David Griffiths noted the importance of not discussing SEHC as this was not relevant to CFV correspondence.

## **7. Small Co-operatives and Audit Requirements**

David Griffiths reported that there had been no further progress. The Hon. Wendy Lovell, the Shadow Minister for Consumer Affairs, had responded in a letter dated 30 October 2006 and Graham McLennan, Manager, Parliament and Correspondence, Cabinet Secretariat, had responded on behalf of the premier in a letter dated 10 November 2006 noting that no response was possible until after the election. He reported that this response had still not be received.

## **8. Co-operation between Co-operatives**

Tony O'Shea reported ohis participation in a Co-operatives Teleconference on 19 January 2007 with Chris Enright and Peter Wells (C-operativesWA) and

Jim Sneesby and Helen McCall (CFNSW). It was agreed that David Griffiths would also participate.

## **9. Income Generation**

Graeme Charles said that he would prepare a budget for the period up to end June 2007 and this would include consideration of any possible allocation for the potential employment of a part-time Executive Officer as proposed by NB.

## **10, Other Matters**

### **10.1 Denmark Co-operator**

It was noted that Ebbe Lundgaard, Chairman, FDB (Denmark),

<http://www.fdb.dk>

was visiting Australia briefly and that Graeme Charles had been in email contact regarding a possible meeting to discuss retail co-operatives and FDB participation in retail co-operative workshop.

### **10.2 Indian Co-operative Delegation**

It was noted that the National Co-operative Union of India had proposed a study visit including a visit to Melbourne on 1- 2 February 2007. The composition of the four members delegation is as under:-

1. Mr. Ajit Kumar Singh, Member of Indian Parliament & Chairman, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED)
2. Dr. Chandra Pal Singh, Member of Indian Parliament & Chairman, Krishak Bharati Cooperative Ltd. (KRIBHCO)
3. Mr. R. K. Dhami, Vice Chairman, NAFED
4. Mr. Bhagwati Prasad, Chief Executive, National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI)

**Next Meeting:** 10: 0.0. am, 15 March 2007, Substitution Pty Ltd, 1/484 William Street, North Melbourne

Prepared by David Griffiths: 19 January 2007

Approved by Tony O'Shea: 21 January 2007

Emailed to directors: 21 January 2007

Snailmailed to directors: 22 January 2007

# **Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd**

## **2007 Schedule of Board and AGM meetings**

### **Board**

Start time: 10:00am

Venue: Substitution Pty Ltd, 1/484 William Street, North Melbourne

These dates have been confirmed.

15 March 2007

17 May 2007

19 July 2007

20 September 2007

15 November 2007

### **AGM**

Start time: 12:00 Midday

Venue: Urban Camp Melbourne Co-operative, Brens Drive, Parkville

15 November 2007